

**MAY DIVERT LAKE BOATS
TO THE COAST SERVICE**

Plan to Relieve Railroad Congestion
Under Consideration by Shipping Board.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—Readjustment of the coastwise and Great Lakes shipping control is under consideration by the Shipping Board and the Railroad Administration. The probability is that the latter will have charge of numerous steamers which are regarded as primarily auxiliaries to rail transportation.

By putting domestic water and rail movement under one control it is believed greater speed and economy will be obtained, especially in bulk commodities such as cotton. A cargo of cotton can reach Boston from Savannah in four or five days, while that many weeks is required to reach its destination by rail after passing Washington.

Similar conditions prevail in the district where the lakes are utilized. A ship loaded takes as long from Pittsburgh to the Atlantic seaboard as from the same place to Pacific Coast shipyards.

Thirty lake boats transferred to the Atlantic seaboard probably will be put into the New England coal carrying trade, for which ships are to be used which are not suited for transat-

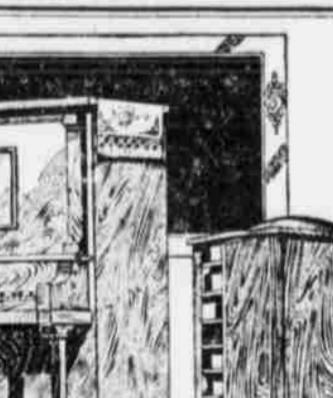
lantic travel. Approximately 20,000,000 tons of coal must be carried to New England by water during the coming year, in addition to 10,000,000 tons by rail.

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